ABSTRACT OF THE MINUTES

OF THE

FIRST, SECOND, AND THIRD SESSIONS

OF THE

MISSIONARY SYNOD OF CANADA,

IN CONNEXION WITH THE

UNITED ASSOCIATE SYNOD IN SCOTLAND.

TORONTO:
PRINTED AT THE BANNER OFFICE, YONGE STREET.
1845.

LIST

OF

Ministers and Office-Bearers.

PRESBYTERY OF LONDON.

REV. WILLIAM PROUDFOOT, *Presbytery Clerk,*
" GEORGE MURRAY,
" JAMES SKINNER, *Treasurer,*
" ALEXANDER McKENZIE,
" DAVID INGLIS,

PRESBYTERY OF FLAMBORO'.

REV. THOMAS CHRISTIE, *Treasurer,*
" JAMES ROY, *Presbytery Clerk,*
" ALEXANDER RITCHIE,
" JOHN PORTEOUS,
" WILLIAM BARRIE,
" CHARLES FLETCHER,

PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.

REV. R. H. THORNTON,
" JOHN CASSIE,
" WILLIAM FRASER,
" GEORGE LAWRENCE,
" JOHN JENNINGS, *Presbytery Clerk,*
" JOHN MORRISON,
" SAMUEL PORTER,
" JAMES DICK,
" WALTER SCOTT,

PRESBYTERY OF CANADA EAST.

REV. ANDREW KENNEDY,
" ALEX'R LOWDEN, *Presbytery Clerk.*

REV. WILLIAM PROUDFOOT, PROFESSOR,
" THOMAS CHRISTIE, TREASURER OF GRANT FROM THE UNITED ASSOCIATE SYNOD,
ROBERT CHRISTIE, ESQ., SYNOD TREASURER.
REV. R. H. THORNTON, MODERATOR.

ABSTRACT OF THE MINUTES

OF THE

Missionary Synod of Canada.

FIRST SESSION OF THE MISSIONARY SYNOD.

HAMILTON, 27th *July*, 1844. /3 M.S. minutes

The Missionary Presbytery of the Canadas met and was constituted by the Rev. George Lawrence, Moderator.

The Clerk read an extract from the Minutes of the United Associate Synod, of the following tenor, "*That the Canadian Presbytery be instructed to arrange themselves into as many separate Presbyteries as may be found advantageous, and to form themselves, at the same time, into a Synod, exercising all ecclesiastical authority over their own Church competent to a Supreme Court; provided always, that they continue to transmit to this Synod their minutes, reports of labours, and other communications, as heretofore.*" **Minute of the U. A. Synod, authorising the formation of the Missionary Synod.**

Resolved,—That the Rev. G. Murray do take the Chair, and constitute the Synod, which having been done it was agreed that the designation of the Synod be—"THE MISSIONARY SYNOD OF CANADA, IN CONNEXION WITH THE ASSOCIATE SECESSION CHURCH IN SCOTLAND." **Missionary Synod constituted.**

Appointed—the Rev. W. Proudfoot, Clerk of Synod, and the Rev. T. Christie, Treasurer.

Resolved,—That the Synod be subdivided into the following Presbyteries:—

First—THE PRESBYTERY OF LONDON: consisting of the Rev. Messrs. William Proudfoot, George Murray, and James Skinner. The congregations under the inspection of said Presbytery are London, Blenheim, Paris, English Settlement, and Proof Line, together with the following vacancies:—Chatham, East Tillbury, Union Road and Talbot St. in Southwold, Goderich, Stanley, and Tucker Smith. **I. Presbytery of London.**

Its first meeting.

Said Presbytery to hold its first meeting at London, on the Tuesday after the first Sabbath in October next.

II. Presbytery of Flamboro'.

Second—THE PRESBYTERY OF FLAMBORO': consisting of the Rev. Messrs. Thomas Christie, James Roy, Alexander Ritchie, David Coutts, John Porteous, and William Barrie. The congregations under their inspection are Flamboro', St. George, Beverly, West Dumfries, Esquesing, and St. Catherines, together with the vacant congregations of Nichol, Eramosa, Paisley Block, Puslinch, Hamilton, and Chippewa.

Its first meeting.

The first meeting of Presbytery to be held in Hamilton, on the Wednesday after the first Sabbath in August.

III. Presbytery of Toronto.

Third—THE PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO: consisting of the Rev. Messrs. R. H. Thornton, John Cassie, William Fraser, George Lawrence, William Jenkins, John Jennings, John Morrison, Samuel Porter, and James Dick. The congregations under their inspection are Whitby, Port Hope, Gwilliamsbury, Tecumseth, Innisfil, Clarke, Richmond Hill, Toronto, Madrid, N. Y.; Trafalgar, and Emily, together with the vacancies—King, Albion, Vaughan, Chinguacousy Pickering, and Rochester, N. Y.

Its first meeting.

The first Meeting of Presbytery to be held in Toronto, on Tuesday after the fourth Sabbath in September.

Doctor M'Kerrow's plan, approved of.

Authorised the Clerk to write to Dr. McKerrow, expressing the Synod's approval of his suggestion as to the best mode of aiding the Canadian Mission, detailed in his letter of the 16th January.

Distribution of Preachers.

Resolved,—That the Presbytery Clerks be a Committee to distribute the services of whatever Preachers may arrive from Scotland, before next meeting of Synod.

Resolved,—That the next meeting of Synod be held at Hamilton, on Wednesday the 22nd May next; and that the Report on Education be the first business; and that the Synod proceed in it to an issue.

Concluded with prayer.

GEORGE MURRAY,
Moderator.
WM. PROUDFOOT,
Synod Clerk.

SECOND SESSION OF THE MISSIONARY SYNOD.

HAMILTON, *22nd May*, 1844.

I. Sederunt.

After sermon from Matt. v. 14, The Missionary Synod was constituted by the Rev. GEORGE MURRAY, Moderator.

SEDERUNT;

Presbytery of London.

OF THE PRESBYTERY OF LONDON,—William Proudfoot and James Skinner, Ministers, and John Tenant, from Blenheim, Ruling Elder.

Presbytery of Flamboro'.

OF THE PRESBYTERY OF FLAMBORO',—Thomas Christie, James Roy, Alexander Ritchie, John Porteous, and Wm. Barrie, Ministers; and Jas. Baxter, from Flamboro'; Robert Christie, from St. George; John Reid, from Dumfries; John Lowrie, from Saint Catharines; Thomas Armstrong, from Eramosa; Alexander Watt, from Nichol; and Wm. Lawson, from Hamilton; Ruling Elders.

Presbytery of Toronto.

OF THE PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO,—R. H. Thornton, John Cassie, George Lawrence, John Jennings, Samuel Porter, James Dick, and David Coutts, Ministers; Thos. Quay, from Port Hope; Herbert Renwick, from Clarke, and Thomas Best, from Emily; Ruling Elders.

Reverend C. Fletcher, and Mr. McFadyan, added to the Roll.

The Presbytery of Flamboro' reported that they had inducted the Rev. Charles Fletcher into the pastoral charge of the congregation of Chippewa.—The Presbytery of Toronto reported that they had ordained Mr. James M'Fadyan over the congregation in Rochester. Their names were therefore added to the Roll of Synod. They were present. The Presbytery of Toronto further reported that they had inducted the Rev. David Coutts into the pastoral charge of the congregations of Chinguacousy and Albion, and also, that the Rev. Wm. Jenkins had departed this life since last meeting of Synod. His name was therefore taken from the Roll.

Rev. William Jenkins died.

Read and approved of the Minutes of last meeting of Synod.

Missionary Presbytery, Canada East, applies for admission:

The Clerk laid on the table a communication from the Rev. Andrew Kennedy, Moderator of the Missionary Presbytery of Lower Canada, containing an extract from the minutes of said Presbytery, and a request that said Presbytery be admitted one of the constituent Presbyteries of this Synod.

La Chute, 13*th February*, 1844.

"At a meeting of the Missionary Presbytery of Canada East, held here this day—*inter alia*—It was agreed, That the Moderator shall apply, through the Rev. William Proudfoot, of London, C. W., for the admission of this Presbytery into the lately formed Missionary Synod of Canada, in connexion with the United Secession Synod in Scotland,—said application to be presented to the meeting of Synod appointed to take place at Hamilton in May next. The Moderator is hereby authorised to act accordingly."

(Signed) "ANDREW KENNEDY, Moderator."

Said communication contains also a request, that the Missionary Presbytery of Canada East may be admitted one of the constituent Presbyteries of the Missionary Synod of Canada. Also, an extract of a letter from the Rev. Dr. M'Kerrow, Secretary to the Committee of Foreign Missions, addressed to the Missionary Presbytery of C. E., of the following tenor. "You may make application to the New Canadian Synod to be recognised as one of its constituent Presbyteries." Also, an extract from the minutes of the United Secession Synod, of the following tenor, "That information of this, (i. e. the erection of the Missionary Synod of Canada,) be given to the Missionary Presbytery of Canada East, that, if they please, they may petition to be united to the Synod as aforesaid." Also, the Roll of the Missionary Presbytery of Canada East, which is as follows:—"Andrew Kennedy, La Chute, and Alexander Lowden, New Glasgow, Ministers; John M'Owat, La Chute, and John Murray, New Glasgow, Ruling Elders."

Is admitted.

After full consideration of all the foregoing, the Synod did unanimously agree to receive the Missionary Presbytery of Canada East, as the Fourth Presbytery of the Missionary Synod, and that the names of said members of Presbytery be added to the Roll of Synod.

The Clerk read a letter addressed to him by the Rev. Dr. M'Kerrow, of the date of 27th February.

Adjourned, to meet in this place at five o'clock.—Closed with prayer.

II. SEDERUNT.

Eodem die et loco, *Five o'clock*, P. M.

The Missionary Synod met, and was constituted by the Rev. G. Murray, Moderator.

Sederunt; ut supra, together with Messrs. Andrew M'Knight, from Beverly, and William Mathieson, from Whitby; Ruling Elders.

Mr. Murray having expressed a wish to vacate the chair, Mr. Thornton was chosen to succeed him.

Report on Education, received and adopted.

Took up the Report on Education. Read said Report in full, and also an abstract of it. After mature deliberation, it was moved, seconded, and unanimously agreed, that said report be received and adopted, with a view to its being acted on.

Appointed Messrs. W. Proudfoot, G. Murray, J. Roy, Wm. Barrie, J. Jennings, R. H. Thornton, J. Dick, R. Christie, and Thomas Best, a Committee to draft a Report, as to the ways and means by which said scheme may be carried into effect. Said Committee to meet to-morrow morning at seven o'clock, in Mitchell's Tavern,—with powers of adjournment,—and to report at next Sederunt.

Adjourned, to meet in this place to-morrow morning at half an hour after nine o'clock.—Closed with prayer.

III. SEDERUNT.

Eodem loco, *May 23rd*, 9½ *o'clock*.

The Missionary Synod met, and was constituted by the Rev. R. H. Thornton, Moderator.

Sederunt as formerly, with the addition of James Robertson, Elder, from Toronto; and with the exception of the Rev. W. M'Fadyan, and Mr. James Baxter.

Read the minutes of last Sederunt.

Protest and Appeal against the translation of Mr. Barrie to Hamilton.

The Presbytery of Flamboro' reported, that the congregations of Nichol and Eramosa having protested and appealed against the translation of the Rev. W. Barrie to Hamilton, they had not inducted the said W. Barrie to the pastoral charge of the congregation of Hamilton, and had referred the whole matter to the Synod; and further, that they had summoned all the parties to compear.

Compeared Alexander Watt, from Nichol, Thomas Armstrong, from Eramosa, and Patrick Thornton and James Paterson, from Hamilton, Commissioners. Read said protests and appeals, and having heard the Commissioners at full length, the Synod agreed to set aside the decision complained of. The case being thus opened up

Mr. Barrie continued in his present charge.

anew, parties were heard; Mr. Barrie, also, was heard; when the following vote was put:—Continue Mr. Barrie in his present charge, or translate him to Hamilton. The roll having been called, and votes marked, it was carried by a majority of two, Continue: like as the Synod did and hereby do continue Mr. Barrie in his present charge. Upon all which the Commissioners from Nichol and Eramosa took instruments and craved extracts. Suitable exhortations were then addressed by the Moderator to all the Commissioners.

Adjourned, to meet in this place at 3½ o'clock.—Closed with prayer.

IV. SEDERUNT.

EODOM DIE ET LOCO, 3½ *O'Clock.*

The Missionary Synod met, and was constituted by the Rev. Chas. Fletcher, Moderator, p.t.

Sederunt, ut supra, with the exception of Mr. Andrew M'Knight.

Read the minutes of former Sederunt.

The Committee on the Education Scheme laid on the table the following Report:—

"Mitchell's Tavern, May 23rd, 7 o'clock, A.M.

The Committee on the Education Scheme met, and Mr. Dick having been called to the chair, constituted the meeting by prayer.

Present, the Rev. Messrs. Proudfoot, Roy, Thornton, Barrie, Jennings, and R. Christie, Elder.

Mr. Thornton was appointed Clerk.

Report of the Committee on the Professor's salary.

"Agreed, That after the Professor shall require to demit his charge, he must have what is necessary for his support in the altered circumstances; but that, in the meantime, Sixty Pounds per annum be the sum appropriated for the Professor's Salary.

"Agreed also, That the Students board with the Professor, in order to be under his special instruction, and at the rate of seven shillings and sixpence, currency, per week, and that said sum shall include board, fuel, light, and washing. Agreed also, that the payments be made by the students, not to the Professor, but to the Committee of Inspection, quarterly in advance.

"That in order to procure the necessary funds, an Address, embracing the merits of the subject, be prepared and circulated among the Congregations by their respective Ministers: Also, that a Deputation from the several Presbyteries visit the Congregations within their bounds, to awaken them to the importance of the object, and to secure their assistance.

"Agreed also, that a suitable Address be prepared, and sent to the Committee on Foreign Missions, soliciting their assistance.

(Signed.) R. H. THORNTON,
Clerk of Committee."

Report adopted

Synod having considered the Report, resolved to adopt it: and appointed the Presbytery of London a Committee to draw up the addresses to the Congregations, and to the Committee on Foreign Missions: Also, that each Presbytery appoint a Deputation to visit the Congregations within its own bounds for the purposes specified in the Report.

Adjourned to meet to-morrow morning at eight o'clock. Closed with prayer.

V. SEDERUNT.

HAMILTON, *24th May, Eight o'clock.*

The Missionary Synod met, and was constituted by the Rev. Chas. Fletcher, Moderator, p.t.

Sederunt; ut supra, with the exception of J. Lowrie, Thomas Armstrong, A. Watt, T. Quay, H. Renwick, and T. Best.

Read the minutes of last Sederunt.

Mr. Thornton now took the chair as Moderator.

Proceeded to the election of a Professor for the Theological Institute, when the Rev. W. Proudfoot was unanimously chosen.

Appointed next meeting of Synod to be held in Hamilton on the 11th day of June, next year.

Delayed all other causes.—Closed with prayer.

R. H. THORNTON, *Moderator.*
WM. PROUDFOOT, *Synod Clerk.*

THIRD SESSION OF THE MISSIONARY SYNOD.

(*A pro re nata Session.*)

HAMILTON, *October* 2, 1844.

The Missionary Synod, called to meet specially, was constituted by the Rev. R. H. THORNTON, *Moderator*.

Sederunt;—Revds. Wm. Proudfoot, James Skinner, Thos. Christie, James Ray, Alexander Ritchie, John Porteous, Wm. Barrie, Charles Fletcher, John Jennings, and James Dick,—together with James Baxter, from Flamboro'; Robert Christie, from St. George; and Wm. Lawson, from Hamilton—*Ruling Elders*.

Moderator assigns reasons for calling this meeting.

The Moderator read part of a letter from the Rev. Dr. McKERROW, as containing his reason for calling this special meeting of Synod; of which part, the following is a copy:

"BRIDGE OF TEITH, MANSE, *June* 11, 1844.

Extract from Doctor M'Kerrow's Letter.

"The United Associate Synod at their last meeting, have sanctioned the proposal of the Committee on Foreign Missions, concerning the change in the mode of supporting the Canadian Mission. From the first of May, in the present year, a sum shall be voted annually from our mission fund to your Synod, to be applied by you in supporting your congregations, in assisting your ministers—and in carrying on your missionary operations, according as yourselves shall deem most advantageous. This sum is to be in lieu of all grants to individual ministers, or congregations from the mission fund as heretofore; it will be paid to you in half yearly instalments, and your Synod must send to our Committee a *half yearly* account of the mode in which it is expended, and of your missionary operations as a Synod in connexion with us. The Presbytery of Eastern Canada are to be included in the benefit of this annual grant. The sum which the Committee have voted to you for the current year, commencing at the beginning of May, (which is the beginning of our financial year) is £400. This sum to be paid in two half yearly sums of £200 each. Should it so happen that any of your ministers may have drawn upon our Treasurer, for any sum that may be due to them, for the current year, this sum will be deducted from the £400; and in your distribution of such, you can consider these ministers as having received their share in the amount they may have drawn.

"Be so good as attend to the following suggestions of our Treasurer, Mr. Peddie, contained in a letter addressed to me. He says: "'I should like to know who is the party who is to draw. The Synod of Canada should appoint a Treasurer, and send me a certified extract of their minute; and then only his draft on me will be attended to, and he may either draw in one sum, or, if more convenient, give the parties to whom the money is to be distributed, bills on me for their quarter. If the whole is drawn for at once, I should like it made at 30 days sight.'"

(Signed) "JOHN M'KERROW.

"To the Rev. WM. PROUDFOOT."

Moderator's conduct approved of.

Synod having heard the above letter read, unanimously approved of the Moderator's having called them together.

Read the minutes of last session of Synod.

Mr. Christie appointed Treasurer of Synod' grant.

Appointed the Rev. Thomas Christie, Treasurer of the annual grant of the United Associate Synod to the Missionary Synod, for the purposes specified in Dr. M'Kerrow's letter.

To be notified to Doctor M'Kerrow.

Instructed the clerk to notify this appointment to Dr. M'Kerrow, and to request the Treasurer of the United Associate Synod, to send to Mr. Christie a letter of credit for the amount of said grant now due.

Committee on Constitution and Book Keeping.

Appointed Messrs. Jennings and Dick, a committee, to draw up a constitution for our congregations, and also, a form of Congregational Book-keeping: said Committee to report this evening.

Presbytery of Flamboro'.

Appointed the Presbytery of Flamboro', to meet this evening in Mr. Mitchell's at 5 P. M.

Presbyterial visitation.

Resolved, That all the Churches under our inspection be visited by a Presbyterial deputation, to bring before the people their duty in reference to the support of the Gospel; and also, to stir them up to support the Synod's academy. Said visitations to be all made before the expiration of the current year.

Adjourned, to meet again this evening, at half-past six o'clock.

Closed with Prayer.

II. SEDERUNT.

HAMILTON, 6½ *o'clock.*

The Missionary Synod of Canada met, and was constituted by the Rev. R. H. THORNTON, *Moderator.*

Sederunt, ut supra, with the exception of James Baxter.

Read the minutes of last sederunt.

Agreed that the preacher who shall first arrive from Scotland, shall be one month in Toronto Presbytery, then six weeks in Flamboro' Presbytery, and then two months in London Presbytery; and that the above shall be the routine and time of labour for whatever Preachers may arrive.—If two shall arrive at the same time, the one shall begin in Toronto Presbytery, and the other in Flamboro' Presbytery. If three shall arrive, the third shall commence in London Presbytery.

Distribution of Preachers.

Preachers' Salary.

Resolved, That as a general rule, a preacher's salary shall not be less than one pound five shillings, currency, for every Sabbath day's services; and, that if the vacancies shall not be able to raise the whole of this sum, the deficiency shall be made up out of the Synod's mission fund.

Treasurer of Fund to pay the deficiency.

Each preacher shall, from time to time, deliver to the Treasurer of the mission fund, a list of the Sabbaths on which he has preached within any Presbytery, and an account of the sums he has received from each congregation; upon his doing which, the Treasurer is authorised to pay what balance may be necessary to make up his salary to the authorised amount.

Copy given to Treasurers of Presbyteries.

A copy of said lists shall be given to the Treasurer of each Presbytery by every preacher upon his leaving its bounds.

Minutes of Synod printed.

Agreed that the minutes of Synod from the beginning, be printed as speedily as possible.

Descriptive Account.

Resolved, That a descriptive account of this Synod, in its history, doctrines and discipline, be drawn up and printed, for general circulation. Appointed Messrs. Christie and Fletcher, a committee to draw up said account. The Committee were enjoined to send a copy of said account to each Presbytery, who shall report their remarks to the Committee, in time for them to engross such of them as they shall approve of, in a fair copy, to be laid before next meeting of Synod.

Goderich Petition for aid from Fund,

Received and read a petition from the congregation in Goderich, praying for aid from the Fund. Agreed to delay

granting the aid asked, because no funds have yet come into the hands of the Treasurer, and also, because the Synod agree in thinking, that aid shall not be granted to any congregation, without a statement of income and expenditure by such congregation for the year preceding the application.

Delayed.

Resolved, That Mr. Proudfoot's salary as Professor, be seventy pounds per annum; that said salary be paid quarterly, and that he be authorised to draw upon the Treasurer of the Synod's general fund for the amount. The academical year begins on the first day of October.

Professor's Salary.

Resolved, That seven pounds, ten shillings be placed at Mr. Proudfoot's disposal, to be laid out on books for the use of the students.

Library for Institution.

The Committee on the "Constitution" not having gotten their labours completed, craved leave to postpone their report till to-morrow. Leave was granted.

Committee to report to-morow.

Adjourned to meet to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock, A.M. Closed with prayer.

III. SEDERUNT.

HAMILTON, *October* 3, 1844.

The Missionary Synod met, and was constituted by the Rev. R. H. THORNTON, *Moderator.*

Sederunt ut supra, with the addition of the Rev. Samuel Porter.

Read the minutes of former sederunts.

Resolved, That Robert Christie, Esq., be Treasurer for all monies collected within our churches in Canada, and that the charges on this fund shall be: First, The expenses connected with the Theological Institution: Second, Synod Clerk's salary: Third, Aid to vacant and weak congregations; and Fourth, Incidental expenses.

R. Christie, Esquire, Treasurer.

Received and read a letter from Mr. Wm. Ballantyne, in name of sundry persons, in and about Smith's Falls, expressing a desire to be received as a congregation under the inspection of this Synod, and requesting that a member of Synod be sent to examine into their circumstances, and to give them such advice as may enable them to gain their object.

Letter from Mr Ballantyne respecting Smith's Falls.

The Synod appointed Mr. Thornton to visit the persons applying, as soon as possible, before the close of navigation,

Mr. Thornton appointed.

to give all needed advice, information and encouragement, and to give notice to the writer of the letter, of the time when it will be convenient for him to visit Smith's Falls.

Committee on Constitution Report. The Committee on the Constitution, reported a draft of a constitution, and a form of Congregational Book-keeping.—Re-appointed the Committee—returned said draft to be completed—instructed Committee to send a completed copy to each Presbytery, that it may be submitted to the sessions. An aggregate report from each Presbytery to be sent to the Committee, who are instructed to have the work finished by next meeting of Synod.

Hamilton Petition. Received and read a petition from the congregation in Hamilton, for aid to enable them to pay off part of the debt upon their church. Appeared Mr. P. Thornton as Commissioner, from the congregation. The Synod recommended the Commissioner to bring the case first before the Presbytery of Flamboro', who, if they shall deem it an urgent one, are hereby enjoined to recommend it to the liberality of the churches.

Deputation to Synod of the Presbyterian Church. *Resolved*, That a deputation be sent from this Synod to the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, to meet next week in Toronto, and that Messrs. Proudfoot, Thornton, and Jennings be said deputation.

Committee of Inspection. Appointed the Rev. Messrs. Christie, Frazer and M'Kenzie, a committee of inspection for the Theological Institution.

Closed with prayer.

R. H. THORNTON, *Moderator.*
WM. PROUDFOOT, *Synod Clerk.*

John Pollock.

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